



PROGRESS REPORT NO. 40

TO: Helen Bottcher – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - via Email

FROM: Marko Adzic – Teck American Incorporated (Teck)

DATE: November 10, 2009

FILE NO: 1-773180-000

RE: Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 40 Month Ending October 2009

Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of the activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

Fish sampling efforts were completed on October 19, 2009. The tally and associated field measurements have been completed and a sample compositing proposal presented¹. Based on the proposal, processing (i.e., homogenization) of fish in the large-size class (i.e., >30 centimeters) will be initiated per the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP). Upon receiving EPA's concurrence with the compositing proposal for small- and medium-size fish, processing activities will be initiated. Teck will continue to work with EPA in prioritizing and finalizing the small- and medium-size fish composites so as to meet the needs of both the ecological and the human health risk assessments.

Surface water sampling activities associated with the 1st round of data collection activities was completed on October 20th. It is anticipated that validated data will be available in January 2010.

Technical review comments on the draft Screening Level Ecological Risk Assessment (SLERA) were received and revisions to the document are ongoing. It is anticipated that the revised document will be resubmitted in November 2009. Review comments are pending for the draft plankton sampling plan (July 18, 2008), and the draft baseline ecological risk assessment work plan (July 23, 2009).

During the next several months, Teck will continue to work on developing technical deliverables that will facilitate the following 2010 field sampling efforts as outlined

¹ As agreed to during field sampling activities (October 1, 2009) fish composites would be developed and assigned at the end of the field effort.

within the draft BERA work plan (e.g., surface soil sampling, and white sturgeon work based on EPA's level-of-effort paper).

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-892-2585.